



Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

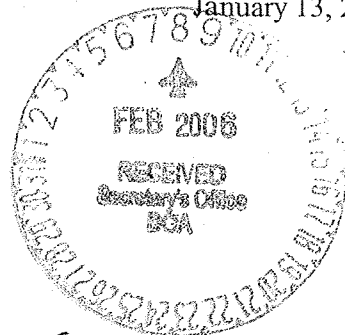
Michael F. Easley, Governor
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary



North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Stanford M. Adams, Director

2411 Old US 70 West
Clayton, NC 27520
January 13, 2006



MEMORANDUM

TO: Melba McGee, Office of Legislative Affairs

FROM: Bill Pickens, NC Division Forest Resources *Bill Pickens*

SUBJECT: DOT Scoping for Widening US 13 from US 158 near Winton to US 158 in Tarhell in Gates and Hertford Counties

PROJECT #: 06-0209 and TIP # R-207A

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources has reviewed the referenced scoping document and submits the following comments concerning impacts to woodlands to address in the EA.

1. List, by timber type, the total forest land acreage that is removed or taken out of forest production as a result of the project so that we can evaluate construction impact. If no impacts will occur, please state so in the document. The widening of an existing roadway usually has fewer impacts to forest resources than a new location project.
2. Additionally, efforts should be made to align corridors to minimize impacts to woodlands in the following order of priority:
 - Managed, high site index woodland
 - Productive forested woodlands
 - Managed, lower site index woodlands
 - Unique forest ecosystems
 - Unmanaged, fully stocked woodlands
 - Unmanaged, cutover woodlands
 - Urban woodlands
3. The EA should include a summary of the potential productivity of the forest stands affected by the proposed project. Potential productivity is quantified by the soil series, and is found in the USDA Soil Survey for the county involved.
4. The provisions the contractor will take to utilize the merchantable timber removed during construction. Emphasis should be on selling all wood products. However, if the wood products cannot be sold then efforts should be made to haul off the material or turn it into mulch with a tub grinder. This practice will minimize the need for debris burning, and the risk of escaped fires and smoke management problems to residences, highways, schools, and towns.

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